

SENATE RESOLUTION 105
By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Frank Ramsey on the celebration of his 90th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, having cultivated the fertile fields of life, Mr. Frank Ramsey will celebrate his 90th birthday on February 21, and February 22, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, Frank Ramsey guesses he was born somewhere around midnight between February 21, and February 22, in 1916; he found out he had been marking the date of his birth on the wrong day when he applied for Social Security, so he decided to stick with both his traditional day and the one on his birth certificate; he says he doesn't mind two days of celebration, especially since it may take two days to celebrate something as grand as turning 90; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ramsey is a highly respected member of the Morristown community; just as he has done for more than seventy years, he continues to put in a full work week at Ramsey's Farm Market in Morristown, saying he loves doing what he has always done, visiting with the customers who come to the store; and

WHEREAS, these days, Mr. Ramsey's son and business partner, Joe, runs the store, and Mr. Ramsey's job is to talk to, and play checkers with, the customers; at the age of 90, he says he is not at the top of his checker game, but there was a time when he held the title of Tennessee Checker State Champion; and

WHEREAS, Frank Ramsey admits he is a little late to work three days a week, but not because he is sleeping in; he goes to Optimus Health Club in Jefferson City, where he participates in water aerobics; and

WHEREAS, he says his secret to a long and prosperous life is getting plenty of exercise, clean living, and having a wife who takes exceptionally good care of him; Mr. Ramsey gives the credit to his bride of sixty years, Ruth, who loves to tell stories about her husband; and

WHEREAS, when Frank Ramsey was thirteen years of age, someone in his classroom threw at pear peel and knocked out his eye, but Ruth Ramsey says he has done pretty well all these years with only one eye; she insists that her husband's "clean living" has increased his quality of life, and that she has never in their sixty years of marriage, heard him say a "cuss word"; and

WHEREAS, Frank Ramsey does admit once taking about a teaspoon of liquor, but, "that was enough to do me for a lifetime"; when asked how he has lived for ninety years without drinking, smoking, or cursing, he says he grew up knowing his Daddy would have frowned on the idea of him doing those things, so he just decided he didn't want to suffer the consequences of a displeased father; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ramsey says he does not plan to slow down anytime soon, as he loves life, and loves the pace he keeps now; he has given up some of his lifelong activities, finally retiring from keeping the church nursery at First Baptist Church in Morristown after forty-two years, but he says he doesn't plan to fully retire until he "gets old enough"; and

WHEREAS, Frank Ramsey continues to enjoy the love and affection of his family and friends; he has held true to fully appreciating the blessings of this life, carefully cultivating a character of decency, sowing seeds of well-being for his spouse and his offspring, and propagating much success throughout Morristown; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ramsey has created an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens, a man whose friendship and camaraderie continues to touch his friends and neighbors throughout Morristown, on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate Frank Ramsey, faithful friend, devoted family man, and humble servant to the Lord, on the celebration of his 90th birthday and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.